



The President's Daily Brief

14 May 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Political maneuvering over formation of a new Cambodian cabinet continues. (Page 1)

West Germany

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Lebanon's President Franjiah will pursue in parliament today his case for more stringent controls over fedayeen activities. (Page 3)

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CAMBODIA

Political maneuvering over formation of a new cabinet continues. High Political Council member In Tam, who was delegated on May 11 by his fellow council members to draw up an acceptable slate of ministers, has encountered troublesome demands from Sirik Matak.

[redacted] if difficulties over cabinet assignments should scuttle In Tam's candidacy for the prime ministership, the High Political Council would dispense with the post. It would institute instead three deputy prime ministers--a device used in previous governments--with each responsible for directing a group of ministries. Should this procedure be followed, Matak has indicated that he would attempt to control the most influential portfolios.

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WEST GERMANY

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NOTES

Lebanon: President Franjiah will pursue in parliament today his case for more stringent controls over fedayeen activities. Chances that the fedayeen will acquiesce to heavy restrictions on their freedom are slight. All parties are working to avoid an all-out confrontation, however, and at least a temporary, if fragile, accord seems probable. Beirut airport has been reopened, the curfew relaxed, and the countryside has been generally calm this weekend.

Egypt: Cairo appears to be relaxing the high state of alert of its armed forces. Egyptian naval reservists, recalled early this month for duty at naval bases on the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, will be discharged beginning May 16. Air force reservists, who were also called up, have been told to report to their civilian occupations by May 19.

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